InterACT Presents

Transportation Priorities Project: Dream It / Fund It / Build It

A Community Priorities and Design Initiative for Clark County

Jurisdiction Comments on the Report

- This is very valuable as a foundation. WSDOT wants to put in place community based project, projects that build, fit into, and further the community's visions of itself. Efforts like InterACT's TPP are going to give us the information and direction that will allow us to really do this.
- Even though they were self-selected, the involved public gave good insight into what kinds of
 improvements are important and how they might fund them. I think you opened the door for
 discussion on regional funding of "system" improvements. This information needs to be included in
 the update of our comprehensive land use plan.
- There are 40,000 single occupancy vehicles crossing into Oregon every morning for jobs in Oregon. We need pre-permitted industrial sites in Vancouver NOW. We must concentrate on high value jobs HERE.
- I heard today, citizens are willing to step up if we, as government, can restore faith through a structured regional approach to the big picture issues. Seems as though those in attendance are attempting to look at the big picture of our transportation future.
- Thank you for . . . an interesting discussion on TTP. I was able to attend the summit, and as a result had some inkling of the results. But it is good to see them in the bigger and more complete picture. I want to also commend you, InterACT, . . . and the many others who worked very hard on getting this project done . . . if you can call it done. Perhaps it is better to call it Phase 1 done. Or was it Churchill who said that this is the end of the beginning?

I believe that the transportation issue is the key to unlocking economic development. And economic development is, in capsule form, the mission of the Port of Vancouver. My primary concern remains freight mobility . . . assuring the easy flow of goods on the rivers, roads and rails of this region. As I reviewed the "Preview Draft" I was encouraged to see that freight mobility gained in importance as the process continued. Congestion is not just a personal problem. We have all been caught in the gridlock that occurs regularly on I-5 going south in the morning and north in the afternoon. It is also a potential (if not all ready) strangle hold on our ability, as a region, to have reasonable and planned economic growth. And considering the lag time between concept and construction, it will get worse before it gets better.

I believe that this region needs a new I-5 bridge. The concept has been addressed in the Task Force. We need to now move to planning, funding and construction. The Delta Park issue is being dealt with by the State of Oregon . . . and I commend their efforts and the separation of this project from the I-5 Project to allow for a more timely solution. I think that we need to consider a freight bridge, perhaps linked to a new railroad bridge across the Columbia River at the location of the existing railroad bridge (which I believed was constructed in 1907 or 1908). Light rail must be considered, not as the solution but as a part of the overall, long-term, fix. And we must look at what will be required for passenger and freight rail in the next 20 years. I predict the heavy (freight) rail problem will be the next "channel deepening" issue for the ports and for industry in this region.

The biggest hurdles are funding, environmental and time. Funding will probably require the region to consider tolls and another look at user taxes such as increases to the gas tax. Any significant project must give careful consideration to environmental concerns. And the whole process takes a lot of time. As such, the TPP is an important piece in the continuing need to coalesce our collective concerns and focus on solutions. The input by the citizens of our region makes it even more important. And I applaud your efforts to broaden the discussion. It must be done. I am looking forward to the final report...and the next steps, which, hopefully, will keep us headed in the right direction.

• C-TRAN is very anxious and enthusiastic about receiving the report and has made a commitment to work towards achieving the many important transit suggestions and improvement that have been commented on over the past months. We look forward to a close working relationship as we all move forward to improve our transportation system in the region. Good luck and count on our support in reacting and responding to what we have learned through this process. You guys did a lot of work and I for one appreciate all that you have done on behalf of our organization in working with our citizens on these challenging transportation issues.